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Title: Need to rehalilitate the flood-affected families in Assam.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to raise this important issue. More than 50,000 families in Assam, which were rendered homeless and landless by the last floods in the year 2007, are still taking shelter on temporary sheds over embankments and roads. But so far, they have not been given any rehabilitation assistance. Even the assistance under the Central Relief Fund has not been extended to them. They are mostly from the rural areas, they are from the farming communities. Most of the roads and embankments, which were damaged during the last floods are yet to be restored.

Sir, the National Calamity Relief Fund, which is envisaged for helping the State for rehabilitation of the people very much affected by the national calamity has not been granted from the Central Government.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Central Government to immediately release the Central assistance. Last year, a Central Expert Team had visited

Assam but still, so far, no Central assistance has been released to the State of

* Not recorded.

Assam. This is very unfortunate. When we can spare Rs.10,000 crore for rehabilitation of the Tsunami affected people, why the floods affected people, who are still on the roads for the last couple of years, are not being granted any Central assistance from the Government. I strongly protest and I also condemn the failure of the Government of India as well as the Government of Assam on this particular issue. This is a neglect to the farming community of the State of Assam.